Seminar on Gender and Access in South Asia
BRAC Centre Auditorium, Dhaka, Bangladesh, 15-18 November 2006
Organized by the IUSSP Scientific Panel on Gender and the Bangladesh Institute of Development Studies (BIDS), with financial support from the World Bank

Final programme:

**Day 1 November 15, 2006**

9.00 *Opening remarks*
Simeen Mahmud, Bangladesh Institute of Development Studies
Sonalde Desai, University of Maryland, College Park, USA

9.30 *Participant introduction*

10.00-10.20 Break

10.20-12.00 **Session 1 Born Unequal: Gender and Child Survival**

Moderator: Sonalde Desai

- Sex Ratio in Relation to Fertility and Two-Child Norm in India
  Sayeed Unisa
  Discussion

- Does intra-household discrimination account for the bulk of India’s “missing women”?
  Amaresh Dubey and Arjan Verschoor
  Discussion

- Sum up by moderator

12.00-1.00 Lunch

1.00-3.30 **Session 2 Access to Health**

Moderator: Simeen Mahmud

- Short-term Morbidity in India: Gender Disparity in Access to Health Care
  Mitali Sen and Abhilasha Sharma
  Discussion

- The Stigma of Dark Skin in Bangladesh: Women’s Mental Health and Access to Health Services
  Rifat Hasan
  Discussion
Women at Mid-Age and Beyond: Menopause and its After-math: A Study of Pakistani Women’s Health Needs
Tahera Aftab
Discussion

Sum up by moderator

3.30-4.00 Break

4.00-5.00 Session 3 Seeking Safety: The Shadow of Sexual Violence
Moderator Simeen Mahmud

Socio-Economic and Sexual Securities of Young Women Working in Garments Industry: A Case Study of Bangladesh
M. E. Khan, Aditi Aeron, Richard Anker, U. Rob
Discussion

Day 2 November 16, 2006

9.00-10.45 Session 4 Access to Education: Levelling the Playing Field
Moderator Sayeed Unisa

Teacher absence as a factor in gender inequalities in primary school access in Pakistan
Sharon Ghuman and Cynthia Lloyd
Discussion

Gender Inequalities in School Enrolment in Nepal: Examining Effects of Geographical Inaccessibility
Shyam KC
Discussion

Sum up by moderator

10.45-11.15 Break

11.15-12.00 Session 5 Gender and Employment in a Globalizing World
Moderator Prof Nasreen Khundker

Paradox of two Bengals: Robust Growth with Low Women’s Employment Rates
Maitreyi Bordia Das
Discussion

12.00-1.00 Lunch
1.00-3.00  **Session 5 (contd)**

Changing Identities: Gender and Employment in the Call Center Industry in India  
Deepthi Shanker  
Discussion

Expiry of Multi Fiber Agreement and Gender Equity in Labour Market: A Study in India  
Indira Hirway  
Discussion

Sum up by moderator

3.00-3.30  Break

3.30-4.30  **Session 6 Creating Political Space**  
Moderator  Tahera Aftab

Women’s Political Participation and Local Governance: Gendered Constructions of the Political Space  
Stefanie Strulik  
Discussion

Sum up by moderator

6.30  Cultural Show

**Day 3 November 17, 2006**

9.00-11.00  **Session 7 Investing in Women’s Health: Policy Instruments**  
Moderator  Prof. Omar Rahman

Family Planning as an Investment in Development: Evaluation of a Program’s Consequences in Matlab, Bangladesh  
Shareen Joshi and T. Paul Schultz  
Discussion

Sum up by moderator

11.00  Break and video presentation “I have something to say”

1.00-2.00  Lunch
Session 8 Gendered Access: Challenges to Public Policy

Welcome from the BIDS Director General Dr Quazi Shahabuddin

Seminar Highlights Simeen Mahmud

Panel Moderator Barbara Kafka, The World Bank

Panelists:
Quazi Mesbahuddin Ahmed, Member General Economics Division, Planning Commission
Zafrullah Chowdhury, Gano Shashthya Kendro
Madhu Kishwar, Editor, Manushi
Junaid Kamal Ahmad, The World Bank
Maitreyi Das, The World Bank

Open discussion

Vote of thanks Sonalde Desai

7.00 Leave by bus for dinner on the boat at Ashulia

Day 4 November 18, 2006

Field trip to the ICDDR,B Field Hospital and Community Health Programme in Matlab (optional)